

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CHAMPION GAME WINNER HEADS 362 EARLY TRIPLE CROWN NOMINEES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019) – Led by unbeaten 2-year-old champion and Breeders' Cup Juvenile (Grade I) hero **Game Winner**, a total of 362 3-year-old Thoroughbreds were made eligible to compete in this year's Triple Crown during the early nomination phase, which closed Jan. 26.

Each of the 362 horses from the 2016 foal crop was made eligible through a \$600 payment to compete in any of the Triple Crown contests: the 145th running of the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) on May 4 at Churchill Downs (1 ¼ miles); the 144th running of the \$1.5 million Preakness Stakes (GI) on May 18 at Pimlico Race Course (1 3/16 miles); and the 151st running of the \$1.5 million Belmont Stakes (GI) on June 8 at Belmont Park (1 ½ miles).

The total was similar to last year when 360 were nominated at the early stage.

Gary and Mary West's Game Winner, who boasts a record of 4-4-0-0—\$1,496,000, was one of 17 horses nominated by Hall of Fame and five-time Kentucky Derby-winning trainer **Bob Baffert**. The record 15-time Classic-winner also trains Los Alamitos Futurity (GI) victor **Improbable**, who is campaigned by three-fourths of the same team that swept last year's Triple Crown with **Justify**: **WinStar Farm LLC**, **China Horse Club International Ltd.** and **Starlight Racing**.

Other prominent nominees include stakes winners: **Gray Attempt** (Smarty Jones), **Gunmetal Gray** (Sham), **Harvey Wallbanger** (Holy Bull), **Instagrand** (Best Pal), **Knicks Go** (Breeders' Futurity), **Long Range Toddy** (Springboard Mile), **Maximus Mischief** (Remsen), **Mind Control** (Jerome), **Mucho Gusto** (Robert B. Lewis), **Signalman** (Kentucky Jockey Club), **Tax** (Withers), **Vekoma** (Nashua), **War of Will** (Lecomte) and **Win Win Win** (Pasco).

Bourbon War, **Code of Honor**, **Coliseum**, **Country House**, **Extra Hope**, **Frank'sgunisloaded**, **Global Campaign**, **Hidden Scroll**, **Jersey Agenda**, **Kentucky Wildcat**, **Limonite**, **Mucho**, **Network Effect**, **Nolo Contesto**, **Omaha Beach**, **Owendale**, **Plus Que Parfait**, **Roadster**, **Soldado**, **Tacitus** and **Walking Thunder** are just some of the numerous well-meant prospects that were made eligible for the series.

Hall of Famer **Steve Asmussen** led all trainers with 27 nominations. In addition to Baffert, **Chad Brown** and **Todd Pletcher** also had 17 nominees.

Brad Kelley's **Calumet Farm** led all owners with 13 nominations and tied with **Charles Fipke** and **Godolphin** for the most nominees among breeders with six apiece.

For the third straight year, **Tapit** was the leading sire with 19 offspring nominated. **Into Mischief** was next with 15 and was followed by **Curlin** (13), **Cairo Prince** (11) and **Uncle Mo** (11).

Four fillies were nominated, including champion 2-year-old filly and Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI) winner **Jaywalk** and multiple Grade I-winner **Bellafina**.

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The nominees also include 20 horses based outside North America, including 11 from Europe, five from Dubai and four from Japan. Irish-based trainer **Aidan O'Brien** and the **Coolmore** group nominated seven, including graded stakes-winning sons of Scat Daddy, **Sergei Prokofiev** and **Van Beethoven**.

Notable horses not nominated to this year's Triple Crown include Champagne (GI) winner **Complexity** and Saratoga Special (GII) and Swale (GIII) winner **Call Paul**.

Horses not nominated to the Triple Crown during the early phase can be made eligible at www.thetriplecrown.com for \$6,000 during the late nomination period which continues through April 1. If not nominated by that date, horses can become eligible through payment of a supplemental nomination fee due at the time of entry for either the Kentucky Derby (\$200,000), Preakness (\$150,000) or Belmont (\$50,000).

Thirteen horses have swept the Triple Crown series: **Sir Barton** (1919), **Gallant Fox** (1930), **Omaha** (1935), **War Admiral** (1937), **Whirlaway** (1941), **Count Fleet** (1943), **Assault** (1946), **Citation** (1948), **Secretariat** (1973), **Seattle Slew** (1977), **Affirmed** (1978), **American Pharoah** (2015) and **Justify** (2018).

TRIPLE CROWN NOMINATION HISTORY

Year	Early Noms	Late Noms	Total Noms	NA Foal Crop	% of Foal Crop
2019	362	-	362	22,500*	1.6%
2018	360	10	370	22,936	1.6%
2017	419	6	425	22,968	1.9%
2016	368	9	377	23,242	1.6%
2015	429	9	438	23,538	1.9%
2014	414	10	424	24,939	1.7%
2013	369	13	382	28,419	1.4%
2012	398	20	418	32,364	1.3%
2011	364	13	377	35,274	1.1%
2010	366	6	372	37,499	1.0%
2009	401	11	412	38,104	1.1%
2008	449	11	460	38,365	1.2%
2007	450	10	460	37,949	1.2%
2006	426	14	440	37,067	1.2%
2005	358	14	372	35,978	1.0%
2004	434	14	448	37,901	1.2%
2003	446	8	454	37,755	1.2%
2002	405	12	417	36,929	1.1%
2001	440	7	447	36,021	1.2%
2000	387	13	400	35,143	1.1%
1999	396	11	407	35,366	1.2%
1998	384	6	390	34,983	1.1%
1997	375	13	388	35,341	1.1%
1996	354	7	361	37,140	1.0%
1995	317	7	324	38,438	0.8%
1994	354	9	363	41,804	0.9%
1993	342	25	367	44,143	0.8%
1992	389	18	407	48,235	0.8%
1991	369	8	377	49,221	0.8%
1990	315	33	348	50,917	0.7%
1989	381	13	394	51,296	0.8%
1988	381	20	401	50,430	0.8%
1987	398	24	422	49,241	0.9%
1986	422	30	452	47,236	1.0%

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GENDER	2019
Colts	319 88.1%
Geldings	30 8.3%
Ridglings	9 2.5%
Fillies	4 1.1%
TOTAL	362

COLOR	2019
Bay	160 44.2%
Dark Bay/Brown	87 24.0%
Chestnut	73 20.2%
Gray/Roan	41 11.3%
Black	1 0.3%
TOTAL	362

BIRTHPLACE	2019
(United States)	
Kentucky	271 74.9%
Florida	17 4.7%
New York	14 3.9%
California	9 2.5%
Maryland	6 1.7%
Virginia	6 1.7%
Pennsylvania	4 1.1%
Illinois	2 0.6%
Louisiana	2 0.6%
Texas	2 0.6%
Indiana	1 0.3%
Missouri	1 0.3%
New Mexico	1 0.3%
Oregon	1 0.3%
Washington	1 0.3%
West Virginia	1 0.3%
TOTAL	339 93.6%

BIRTHPLACE	2019
(International)	
Ontario, Canada	11 3.0%
Ireland	7 1.9%
Japan	3 0.8%
Great Britain	2 0.6%
TOTAL	23 6.4%

CAREER EARNINGS LEADERS	
Game Winner	\$1,496,000
Jaywalk (f)	\$1,384,200
Bellafina (f)	\$708,000
Knicks Go	\$672,515
Signalman	\$448,990
Derma Louvre (JPN)	\$447,672
Henley's Joy	\$372,160
Long Range Toddy	\$351,125
Bankit	\$330,625
Mind Control	\$323,400

GRADE/GROUP I WINNERS (8)

Bellafina (f) (Del Mar Debutante/Chandelier)
 Game Winner (Del Mar Futurity/American Pharoah/Breeders' Cup Juvenile)
 Improbable (Los Alamitos Futurity)
 Jaywalk (f) (Frizette/Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies)
 Knicks Go (Breeders' Futurity)
 Mind Control (Hopeful)
 Royal Marine (IRE) (Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere)
 Royal Meeting (IRE) (Criterium International)

GRADE/GROUP II WINNERS (5)

Harvey Wallbanger (Holy Bull)
 Instagrand (Best Pal)
 Maximus Mischief (Remsen)
 Signalman (Kentucky Jockey Club)
 Van Beethoven (Railway)

GRADE/GROUP III WINNERS (9)

Cairo Cat (Iroquois)
 Current (Bourbon)
 Forty Under (Pilgrim)
 Gunmetal Gray (Sham)
 Mucho Gusto (Bob Hope/Robert B. Lewis)
 Sergei Prokofiev (Cornwallis)
 Tax (Withers)
 Vekoma (Nashua)
 War of Will (Lecomte)

GRADE/GROUP I PLACED (15)

Code of Honor (Champagne)
 Extra Hope (Los Alamitos Futurity)
 Gunmetal Gray (American Pharoah)
 Mucho (Hopeful)
 Mucho Gusto (Los Alamitos Futurity)
 Nitrous (Hopeful)
 Roadster (Del Mar Futurity)
 Rowayton (Del Mar Futurity/American Pharoah)
 Signalman (Breeders' Futurity/Breeders' Cup Juvenile)
 Somelikeithothbrown (Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf)
 Standard Deviation (Breeders' Futurity)
 Sydney Opera House (GB) (Criterium de Saint Cloud)
 The Irish Rover (IRE) (Phoenix)
 War of Will (Summer)
 Western Australia (IRE) (Futurity Trophy)

GRADE/GROUP II PLACED (7)

Everfast (Holy Bull)
 Limonite (Kentucky Jockey Club)
 Masaff (IRE) (KPMG Champions Juvenile)
 Network Effect (Remsen)
 Plus Que Parfait (Kentucky Jockey Club)
 Spinoff (Saratoga Special)
 Synthesis (Best Pal)

GRADE/GROUP III PLACED (12)

Easy Shot (Robert B. Lewis)
 Henley's Joy (Bourbon)
 Hog Creek Hustle (Lecomte)
 Manny Wah (Lecomte)
 Much Better (Sham)
 Not That Brady (Withers)
 Our Braintrust (Withers)
 Sir Winston (Grey)
 Strike Silver (Sanford)
 Sueno (Sham)
 Tripwire (Grey)
 Zenden (Swale)

FILLIES (4)

Bellafina (f)
 Highheelmomma (f)
 Cairo Cutie (f)
 Jaywalk (f)

WINTER BASE

Florida	109	30.1%
California	64	17.7%
Louisiana	55	15.2%
Arkansas	30	8.3%
(no recent races/workouts)	26	7.2%
New York	18	5.0%
Central Florida	16	4.4%
Ireland	8	2.2%
Maryland	7	1.9%
Dubai	5	1.4%
Japan	4	1.1%
Northern California	4	1.1%
Texas	4	1.1%
Kentucky	3	0.8%
Pennsylvania	3	0.8%
England	2	0.6%
New Mexico	2	0.6%
France	1	0.3%
Illinois	1	0.3%

BASED OUTSIDE NORTH AMERICA (20)

Admiral Rous (IRE)	Eoghan O'Neill (France)
Blenheim Palace (IRE)	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
Derma Louvre (JPN)	Hirofumi Toda (Japan)
Masaff (IRE)	Dermot Weld (Ireland)
Master Fencer (JPN)	Koichi Tsunoda (Japan)
Romantico (JPN)	Kazuo Fujisawa (Japan)
Royal Marine (IRE)	Saeed bin Suroor (Dubai)
Royal Meeting (IRE)	Saeed bin Suroor (Dubai)
Sergei Prokofiev	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
Shir Khan (GB)	Paul Cole (England)
Spanish Mission	David Simcock (England)
Superior	Ahmad bin Harmash (Dubai)
Sydney Opera House (GB)	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
The Irish Rover (IRE)	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
Town Bee	Doug Watson (Dubai)
U S S Michigan	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
Van Beethoven	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
Walking Thunder	Ahmad bin Harmash (Dubai)
Western Australia (IRE)	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
Zeruch	Mikio Matsunaga (Japan)

AUCTION PURCHASE PRICE

Gun It	\$2,600,000	KEESEP17
Instagrand	\$1,200,000	FTFMAR18
Sergei Prokofiev	\$1,100,000	KEESEP17
Seclusive	\$1,050,000	KEENOV16
Litany	\$1,000,000	FTSAUG17
Rubin Hurricane	\$1,000,000	KEESEP17
All About Will	\$975,000	KEESEP17
Moretti	\$900,000	FTSAUG17
Oxburger	\$900,000	KEESEP17
Liberty's Pursuit	\$850,000	KEESEP17
Scalper	\$850,000	FTFMAR18
Bellafina (f)	\$800,000	FTFMAR18
Seismic Jolt	\$800,000	OBSAPR18
Dessman	\$750,000	FTFMAR18
Intrepid Heart	\$750,000	OBSAPR18
Oggonis	\$750,000	FTSAUG17
Current	\$725,000	KEESEP17
Koa	\$725,000	OBSMAR18
Martial Eagle	\$725,000	KEESEP17
Samaronti	\$725,000	KEESEP17
Bandon Woods	\$700,000	FTSAUG17
Boldor	\$700,000	OBSAPR18
Tapit Wise	\$700,000	KEESEP17
Awesome Wok N Roll	\$650,000	OBSMAR18
Federal Case	\$650,000	KEENOV18
Motagally	\$650,000	KEESEP17
New Mexico	\$650,000	FTSAUG17
Strong Union	\$650,000	FTSAUG17
Copper King	\$625,000	KEESEP17
Magnificent McCool	\$625,000	OBSAPR18
Mucho Gusto	\$625,000	EASMAY18
Outshine	\$625,000	KEESEP17
Galilean	\$600,000	BARAPR18
Much Better	\$600,000	KEENOV16
Fort Worth	\$550,000	OBSMAR18
Market King	\$550,000	KEESEP17
U S Navy Cross	\$550,000	KEESEP17
Roadster	\$525,000	KEESEP17
Thomas Shelby	\$525,000	FTFMAR18
Harmon	\$500,000	OBSMAR18
Hitch	\$500,000	OBSAPR18

MISCELLANEOUS (2019)

Winners	199	55.0%
Maidens	163	45.0%
Unraced Horses	72	19.9%
Did Not Races at age 2	109	30.1%

TRAINERS

Steve Asmussen	27
Bob Baffert	17
Chad Brown	17
Todd Pletcher	17
Mark Casse	11
Jerry Hollendorfer	11
Dallas Stewart	10
Dale Romans	9
Keith Desormeaux	7
Jeremiah Englehart	7
Jimmy Jerkens	7
Graham Motion	7
Bill Mott	7
Aidan O'Brien	7
Richard Mandella	6
Kenny McPeek	6
Mark Hennig	5
D. Wayne Lukas	5
Tom Amoss	4
Bret Calhoun	4
Mike Maker	4
Will VanMeter	4

HALL OF FAME TRAINERS

Steve Asmussen	27
Bob Baffert	17
Todd Pletcher	17
Jerry Hollendorfer	11
Bill Mott	7
Richard Mandella	6
D. Wayne Lukas	5
Shug McGaughey III	1

OWNERS (includes partnerships)

Calumet Farm	13
Gary Barber	7
Coolmore	7
West Point Thoroughbreds	7
Centennial Farms	6
Charles Fipke	6
Godolphin	6
Klaravich Stables	6
Winchell Thoroughbreds	6
Eclipse Thoroughbred	
Partners	5
Juddmonte Farms	5
Andrew Farm	4
Bloom Racing Stable	4
John Oxley	4
OXO Equine	4
Spendthrift Farm LLC	4

BREEDERS (includes partnerships)

Calumet Farm	6
Charles Fipke	6
Godolphin	6
Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings	5
Winchell Thoroughbreds	5
WinStar Farm	5
Fred W. Hertrich III	4
Juddmonte Farms	4
Martha Jane Mulholland	4

LEADING Sires

Tapit	19
Into Mischief	15
Curlin	13
Cairo Prince	11
Uncle Mo	11
Candy Ride (ARG)	8
Union Rags	8
Flatter	7
Violence	7
Malibu Moon	6
Scat Daddy	6
Street Sense	6
Will Take Charge	6
Bodemeister	5
Distorted Humor	5
Exchange Rate	5
Ghostzapper	5
Pioneerof the Nile	5
Quality Road	5
Afleet Alex	4
Midnight Lute	4
Orb	4
Sky Mesa	4
Stay Thirsty	4
Super Saver	4
Take Charge Indy	4

STALLIONS WHO SIRED KENTUCKY DERBY WINNERS

Uncle Mo	11
Malibu Moon	6
Scat Daddy	6
Bodemeister	5
Distorted Humor	5
Pioneerof the Nile	5
Elusive Quality	1
Lerooidesanimaux (BRZ)	1

KENTUCKY DERBY-WINNING Sires

Street Sense	6
Orb	4
Super Saver	4
Animal Kingdom	2
Big Brown	2
Fusaichi Pegasus	1

Statistics updated through Feb. 3, 2019

2019 TRIPLE CROWN NOMINEES

(g) = gelding

(r) = ridgling

(f) = filly

Unnamed

(16) Carolina Sunrise
 (16) Ford Gallop
 (16) Morningbird

A

Achilles Warrior
 Admiral Rous (IRE)
 Admire
 All About Will
 Alwaysmining (g)
 American Camp
 Americandy
 Amino
 And Seek
 Andor
 Angelo's Corner (g)
 Angelo's Pride (g)
 Annualized
 Anothertwistafate
 Aquadini
 Avie's Flatter
 Award Winner
 Awesome Wok N Roll

B

B P Rocket
 Bandit Swanson
 Bandon Woods
 Bankit
 Bellafina (f)
 Bernin' Thru Gold (r)
 Betterment
 Big Scott Daddy
 Blenheim Palace (IRE)
 Blue Steel
 Bodexpress
 Boldor
 Bourbon War
 Brian's Spirit (g)
 Brother Aaron
 Brush Country (g)
 By My Standards

C

Cabot
 Cairo Cat
 Cairo Cutie (f)
 Cambre
 Camgo
 Capernaum
 Casa Creed
 Castle Casanova
 Cave Run
 Chase the Ghost
 Chess Chief
 Classy John
 Code of Honor
 Coliseum
 Colliery
 Come On Gerry
 Comedian
 Comical Ghost
 Copper King
 Corruze
 Counter Offer
 Country House
 Courtyard
 Cowboy Diplomacy
 Curlaway
 Current
 Cutting Humor

D

Dabo (g)
 Danfusi
 Daring Disguise
 Derby Date
 Derma Louvre (JPN)
 Dessman
 Diamond Blitz
 Dominant Force
 Don Vito Corleone
 Dorrance
 Doups Point
 Dream Maker
 Dull Knife
 Dunph (g)
 Dyn

E

Easy Shot
 Echo Alpha Six (g)
 Ekati's Verve
 Epic Dreamer
 Escaped
 Everfast
 Exchequer
 Extra Hope
 Eye Cloud

F

Family Biz (r)
 Fast Master
 Fayette Warrior
 Federal Case
 Fifty Over (g)
 Final Jeopardy
 Final Say
 Five Star General
 Flawless Bourbon
 Follow the Lute
 Forloveofcountry
 Fort Worth
 Forty Under
 Frank'sgunisloaded (g)
 Frolic More
 Frosted Grace
 Frosted Ice
 Fullness of Time

G

Galilean
 Game Winner
 Garter and Tie
 Gates of Dawn
 General Mo
 Get the Prize
 Global Campaign
 Go Away
 Going for Gold (g)
 Good as Money
 Gray Attempt
 Gray Magician
 Great Sense
 Green Fleet
 Growth Engine (g)
 Gum Tree Lane (r)
 Gun It
 Gunmetal Gray

H		K		Mr. Money
Hackberry		Kaziranga		Much Better (r)
Haikal		Kentucky Wildcat		Mucho
Harmon		Kid Cantina (g)		Mucho Gusto
Harvey Wallbanger		King for a Day		Muralist
Henley's Joy		King Ford		Music to My Ears
He's Smokin Hot		King of Speed		Muskoka
Hidden Scroll		Kingly		My Legacy
Higgins		Knicks Go		My Super Mario
High Amplitude		Knight's Cross		
High Crime		Koa		
Highest Honors			N	
Highheelmomma (f)			Napoleon's Empire	
Hitch			Network Effect	
Hog Creek Hustle		L	New Mexico	
Hold Your Tickets		Lambeau	Next Gen	
Honest Mischief		Last Judgment	Ninth Street	
Honoring Major		Laughing Fox	Nitrous	
Honos Man		Lea Ridge	No Rules	
		Lemniscate	Nolo Contesto (r)	
I		Liberty's Pursuit	Not That Brady (g)	
Icemeister		Limonite		
Identifier		Litany	O	
Improbable		Long Range Toddy	Oggonis	
Incidentally		Lord Dragon	Olympic Runner (g)	
Inclusive (g)		Lucky Lee	Omaha Beach	
Incorrigible		Lunar Illusion	Oncewewerebrothers (g)	
Instagrand		Lutsky	One Bad Boy (r)	
Into Morocco			Our Braintrust	
Intrepid Heart		M	Outshine	
Inventing Blame		Machine Learning	Over Protective	
Inyan Najin		Magnificent McCool	Overdeliver	
Irish Heatwave		Malibu in Motion	Owendale	
Iwillpersevere		Manny Wah	Ownitifyouwantit	
		Mantra	Oxburger	
J		Market King		
Jaywalk (f)		Martial Eagle	P	
Jaywalker		Masaff (IRE)	Passion Play	
Jeans n' Boots		Master Fencer (JPN)	Perfect Speightly	
Jerome Avenue		Maximum Security	Picasso	
Jersey Agenda		Maximus Mischief	Pioneer Dancer	
Joeys Ace (g)		Mayor Cobb (g)	Pioneer Man	
Jump for Alex		Mercy Rule (g)	Play Money	
Just a Chance		Metropol	Plug and Play	
Justinian		Midnight Curfew	Plus Que Parfait (r)	
		Mihos	Polar	
		Millwall	Power End	
		Miltontown	Proschema	
		Mind Control	Punchline	
		Mo Mississippi	Puttheglassdown	
		Mo Reserve		
		Moonster	Q	
		More Ice	Queen's Mason	
		Moretti		
		Motagally		
		Mr Money Bags (g)		
		Mr. Ankeny		
		Mr. Mike		

R	Sleepy Eyes Todd Sly So Alive Soldado Somelikeithotbrown Souper Jackpot Southern King Spanish Mission Spectacular Gem Speed App Spinoff Standard Deviation Still Dreaming Stilts Stock Chain Street Class Strike Silver Strong Union Sueno Super Steed Superior Sweet Giant Sydney Opera House (GB) Synthesis (r)	Tizprocess Tone Broke Town Bee Trifor Gold (g) Tripwire Trophy Chaser Twelfth Labour	
S	Samaronti Savagery Sayyaaf Scalper Sea Note Darby Seclusive Seismic Jolt Seismic Wave Sergei Prokofiev Shancelot Shared Legacy Shazier Sheriff Brown (g) Shining Through Shir Khan (GB) Shootin the Breeze Signalman Sir Winston Six Shooter (g) Skywire Skywriting	T T Bones Trick Tacitus Tap the Wire Tapit Wise Tax (g) The Irish Rover (IRE) The Right Path Thettrashmanscoming Thirsty Betrayal (g) Thomas Shelby Tiberius Mercurius Tikhvin Flew Time Is Now Tivan (r)	U U Nomutt (g) U S Navy Cross U S S Michigan Union Charm Union's Destiny
			V Van Beethoven Vekoma
			W Walker Stalker (g) Walking Thunder War of Will Well Defined (g) Wendell Fong Western Australia (IRE) Wicked Indeed Win Win Win World Affairs
			Y Young Phillip
			Z Zenden Zeruch Zoomer

-END-